



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude/Candle Lighting “My Faith looks Up To Thee” Oxana Khramova
 (L. Mason arr. F. Bock)

Ringing of the Bell

***Call to Worship** (*Stand as you are able)

One: Creator God, we praise you!

All: Risen Christ, we greet you!

One: You gather us into a family of grace, a household of love.

All: You make Covenant to be our God and call us to be your people.

Come, Holy Spirit, and transform us by your grace. Alleluia!

***Opening Prayer** (in unison)

O Sower of Love, we are ready soil. Plant your word in us; nourish it in the sun of your grace and the rain of your love. May it bear fruit by the power of your Spirit. Amen.

Opening Hymn “Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast” attached

Readings Karen Miller

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23; Contemporary Reading “A Garden of Practice” by the participants in “The Heart of Now”: Audre Lorde and Practicing Transformation

Special Music “Pastoral Scenes I & II” Jane Mahoney
 (James Naigus) and Corinne Vasquez

Sermon “The Sower” Pastor René Mehlberg

Transitional Hymn “Be Thou My Vision” Hymnal #339

Prayers of the People

Lord’s Prayer

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Offertory “The Golden Hour” Jane Mahoney
 (James Naigus) and Corinne Vasquez

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

Generous God, we share our gifts like tiny seeds from a dandelion. Send out these gifts on the mighty wind of your Spirit, bringing growth, bearing fruit, and nourishing our neighbors. May each gift bloom with your holy imagination. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

“Spirit”

Hymnal #319

*Benediction

*Sung Benediction (unison)

God be with you till we meet again;
Loving counsels guide, uphold you,
With a Shepherd’s care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.

Postlude

“Horn Duet”
(W.A. Mozart)

Jane Mahoney
and Corinne Vasquez

The flowers today are from Kathy Colvin in celebration of her daughter, Valerie Mentor’s, birthday, today, July 12th. Happy Birthday Valerie!

Credits

- Liturgy pieces from Garnaas-Holmes, Steve. “Worship Resources – Unfolding Light.” Unfolding Light. Accessed July 8, 2026. <https://unfoldinglight.net/worship-resources/>.
- “A Garden of Practice — Alexis Pauline Gumbs.” Alexis Pauline Gumbs, January 6, 2025. <https://www.alexispauline.com/now/2025/1/6/a-garden-of-change>.
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This Week

Monday, July 13-Thursday, July 16: Pastor René is on vacation

Tuesday, July 14, 6:30pm: Christian Education Committee, R1

Wednesday, July 15, 9am: Thursday Table meeting, R1

Link to the full church calendar: <https://www.menomonieucc.org/monthlycalendar>

Mission Statement of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Menomonie, WI

We are called together:

- To celebrate God’s presence.
- To help each person to grow in their relationship with God;
- To create a welcoming and supportive community of all God’s people, affirming the diversity of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender expression, and identity, social and economic status, and disability;
- To observe and share life’s passages and our faith traditions;
- To reach out in love seeking justice and peace;
- And to tell the old story of Jesus and His love.

Land Acknowledgement

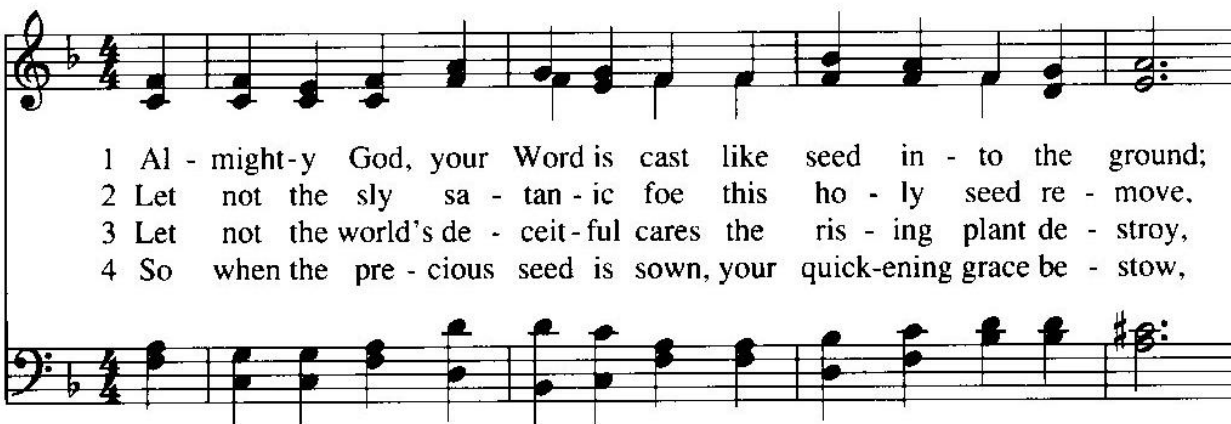
Here we congregate on Ojibwe, Dakota, Menominee, Potawatomi, and Ho Chunk land. Generations of Indigenous people occupied and provided careful stewardship of this land long before Europeans arrived on these shores. The traumatic dispossession of this land by European immigrants and the displacement of countless individuals produced collective suffering that has repercussions for our Indigenous neighbors today. The original inhabitants of this land—known to some Indigenous peoples as Turtle Island—took seriously the Creator’s call to be stewards of air, land, water, and creatures. With gratitude, we acknowledge the lessons we continue to learn from our Indigenous neighbors as we seek to be good stewards and pray for guidance in learning how to make reparations.

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

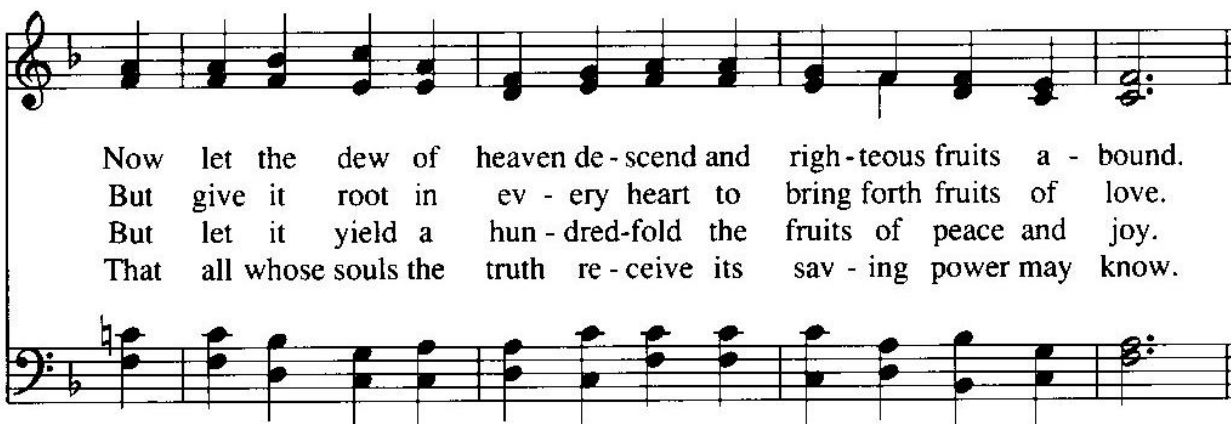
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John Cawood, 1815; alt.

Matt. 13:1–9, 18–23



1 Al - might-y God, your Word is cast like seed in - to the ground;
2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe this ho - ly seed re - move.
3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,
4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, your quick-ening grace be - stow,



Now let the dew of heaven de - scend and righ - teous fruits a - bound.
But give it root in ev - ery heart to bring forth fruits of love.
But let it yield a hun - dred-fold the fruits of peace and joy.
That all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing power may know.

The parable of the sower from Matthew's Gospel was the basis for this hymn. Growing up on a small farm, John Cawood, a priest of the Church of England, surely had a special understanding of this parable.

Tune: ST. FLAVIAN C.M.
Day, *The Whole Booke of Psalms*, 1562

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE 10.10.9.10

Ancient Irish poem
 Trans. Mary E. Byrne, 1905
 Vers. Eleanor Hull, 1912; alt.

Irish ballad
 Harm. David Evans, 1927

1. Be Thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 3. Be Thou my wis - dom, and Thou my true word;

Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art—
 Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 Thou and Thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
 Great God of heav - en, my trea - sure Thou art.
 Still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

James K. Manley, 1975

James K. Manley, 1975



Spir - it, spir - it of gen - tle-ness, Blow through the



wil - der-ness, call - ing and free, Spir - it,



spir - it of rest - less - ness, Stir me from plac - id-ness, Wind,



wind on the sea.



1. You moved on the wa - ters, You called to the
2. You swept through the des - ert, You stung with the
3. You sang in a sta - ble, You cried from a
4. You call from to - mor - row, You break an - cient



deep, Then You coaxed up the moun - tains From the
 sand, And You gift - ed your peo - ple With a
 hill, Then You whis - pered in si - lence When the
 schemes, From the bond - age of sor - row The

E A D G

val - leys of sleep, And o - ver the e -
 law and a land, And when they were blind -
 whole world was still, And down in the cit -
 cap - tives dream dreams; Our wom - en see vi -

A G D

ons You called to each thing, "A -
 ed With their i - dols and lies, Then You
 y You called once a - gain When You
 sions, Our men clear their eyes. With

Bm G

wake from your slum - bers And
 spoke through Your proph - ets To
 blew through Your peo - ple On the
 bold new de - ci - sions Your

A D G/A D A D.C. al Fine

rise on your wings."
 o - pen their eyes.
 rush of the wind.
 peo - ple a - rise.